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CONVERSATION BETWEEN DCI AND MR. DELMER, LONDON DAILY EXPRESS ON 9 DECEMBER 1955

D - "How do you do, sir, sit you down wherever it's comfortable. I know pretty much about you and I was just reading a little description of you."

S - "Oh, really, how amusing."

D - "I read you from time to time. I don't see the British press as much as I could, but I get summaries, you know. I do read the Economist. Am I wrong in doing that?"

S - "I think that's a first class paper. I think it's much the best. I wish to goodness our Times could be edited on the same sort of selection of news and things to report."

D - "I find it gives me an idea of how you're thinking over there."

S - "Yes, but I think the Economist has a different approach, a much more intelligent approach, how things work are what they're always after. I don't know whether they're going to be quite as good now."

D - "I get that air mail edition and then I get the blue....."

S - "Now what do you think of that, sir? It's not bad, is it?"

D - "No, it's been of some use for me from time to time, because it occasionally gets a scoop on things and I wonder.....access to...."

S - "Well, I think it's done....you know funny enough, it was done by a chap that was with me during the war, Donald McLaughlin, whom I think you do know. He once told me he met you, I thought in Paris or Berlin, or somewhere."

D - "Very likely. Do you smoke?"

S - "No, I don't. It was an idea that we had, losing some of this sort of intelligence ideas of anticipation, deduction, and then checking them out, and he's done it in that thing. I don't think they have access to any real secret sources. You know, obviously they have access to the ordinary way through diplomatic sources. It's stimulating, isn't it?"

D - "Yes, it's quite useful. Tell me, now, are you going to be over here long?"

S - "Well, the situation is that I'm here on an exploratory tour, and I'm probably going to come to Washington next year, in January."

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D - "For sometime?"

S - "Well, I hope to go about a year or 18 months. A completely new idea for me because since the war as....."

D - "You were born in Berlin, 1904."

S - "Yes."

D - "Your father was an Australian, Delmaria (phonetic). I had a porch on my house in Long Island, still have it. Burned down once and put it back the same way. I liked it so much. It was supposed to be copied from a Tasmanian house."

S - "Of course, Tasmania is one of the sort of nice old parts in the Temperate Zone. My grandfather was a whaler in the Harbor....."

D - "You went to Berlin in 1928."

S - "As a correspondent."

D - "Oh, here, this is the verse we want. Where did we get the story that you were accompanied by Hitler and Goebbles (phonetic) during the Reichstag fire?"

S - "I presume from my own report on the matter."

D - "Did you?"

S - "Yes, it was a piece of wonderful luck. I went through that burning building with Hitler. I interviewed him as he walked, and then, will you believe it, when I rang up the Daily Express with this report, I was expecting some compliments, and all they said was, "Yes, your story's alright, but we don't want all them politics, we want more about the fire. The United Press reports that the dome had fallen in." And here I had one of the most dramatic stories you could possibly think of."

D - "Did you ever read that book of Gisevius on the Reichstag fire?"

S - "Not on the Reichstag fire. Of course, I may be wrong, but I don't really share the view that that was the job of the Nazis, no more than it was the job of the Communists. I really think it was this mad man..... lighting it up, but then the Nazis faked the evidence to make it look like a job of a lot of people and then.....but Goering, you remember, was supposed to confess, but I don't think that's true. I met Gisevius the other day in the plane."

D - "I haven't seen him for about a year."

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S - "It must have been almost a year ago that I saw him. He was flying over to Berlin to see his mother and he told me, I think, that he had some kind of a job with an international atomic...."

D - "Yes, that's right. He worked for a time with a committee of businessmen here that were working on the atomic energy for peace thing. I haven't seen him. He's in Germany now, I think."

S - "Yes, I should think probably. He was going up there to see.....he's not very popular in Germany."

D - "Oh, I know he's not."

S - "But, they were quite prepared to use him at the start, you know. Gisevius contacts sent him out to get us money, you know, contracts, and all the rest of it."

D - "He went out to Australia."

S - "Oh, he did a wonderful job from their point of view. I mean he went all over the place and worked and brought home the bacon. If it hadn't been for the Korean War making his particular bacon unnecessary."

D - "Well, tell me, what about the world?"

S - "Well, that was just what I was going to ask you, sir."

D - "I thought I'd ask you first."

S - "Well, I feel that the Soviets are having a little too much success, I mean, I'm delighted to see that they're increasing their pressure again, because I think that other tactic was wonderfully successful from their point of view."

D - "It was. I don't know why they've abandoned it so abruptly and so, it seems to be somewhat needlessly. I mean, Molotov at Geneva could have delayed or expected to this, that, and the other, but..."

S - "It is a most peculiar thing."

D - "You'd think from time to time they'd get a little apprehensive about their own people. I have a feeling that they do."

S - "I was in Moscow for that Adenauer Conference and the Walter Ulrich (phonetic) thing and I was absolutely flabbergasted with the magnificent.....prospects for the kind of job that we were doing before the war in Germany. If there was only a target, you know, an immediate objective one could go for, it could play merry hell with them."

D - "Give me some more thoughts on that."

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S - "Well, here's this complete change of line, I mean I went to a theater. I don't speak Russian, but I went to a theater where Communists were being represented, Communist officials, and functionaries were being represented as blue nose, alcoholic, inefficient, and incompetent. It's a play called, Wings. It's fascinating. Of course, it's always the idealistic hero of the piece is a Communist and a good functionary, and a good commissar, but that's a game one could play, and then there was a party meeting of the local tractor station where they were saying, where the Communist was addressing them on ideology, was an awful old bore and he was. I can't remember the exact verbatim of it at all, but he was one of these disgustingly dreary Communists preachers and they were making fun of this."

D - "And the audience was laughing?"

S - "And the audience was delighted, and then was also a tremendous line..."

D - "What was this called, Wings?"

S - "Wings. I thought there was also a very interesting line in the fact that the main human story of the play was that the hero had betrayed his wife to the secret police, but she was illegally arrested, blackened her character, you know, as a doctor, she was a doctor, supposed to have allegedly collaborated with Germany. He didn't stand up for her enough. There's a lot of attack on the Beria secret police. Thank God they're gone, and that sort of stuff. Now, it had a theme that loyalty to your comrade comes first. Now, out of....they're obviously in a flux. I'd love to talk to Kennan and hear whether...."

D - "Why don't you? He's up in Princeton."

S - "Yes, I must do, I simply must. I want to hear whether this situation today is anywhere near that situation he predicted in his famous essay, you know, the....."

D - "Not the containment (?)"

S - "No, the sort of theme was what to do with the Russians at such time as a breakdown came. We mustn't be too hard on them, that kind of line, but he had a wonderful picture of the lid coming off and how difficult it would be to screw it back on again. Well, I think they are in a position a little bit like that, and one could help them get into a worse one if one was.... if there was a target you know, but I don't think it's a good thing to go in for black propaganda or anything of that kind in times of peace unless you've got a very deliberate objective, because otherwise you're inclined to inoculate them to it. But, here for once there is a fairly large target and I think all this young bureaucracy that's coming up and they're so uncertain of what the real line is today, but I'm sure one could create a lot of disturbance with clever faking."

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D - "I made a talk at Columbia sometime back which I sort of held out the hope that this tremendous educational drive was going to develop a kind of inquiring mind and an inquiring mind is the last thing the Soviets want, and I didn't know, but I just had a feeling that there was validity to that, sort of casting out around. I do think they get worried from time to time and this educational business is a tremendous drive."

S - "Do you think they're going to out-educate us? Is that possible?"

D - "Well, I think in...you've seen this book about the reports, Lewis Strauss' speech the other day. I made a talk, a.....talk, I raised the same thing, more or less started the idea that pretty soon they'd be educating more scientists than we, and more technicians, and they have an ability to do that in a way that we do not have and that is they find in the lower grades a fellow that is good in mathematics, calculus, and things of that kind. That's the kind of a fellow who would be a scientist. Then, they tap him and say, alright now, you've proficiency in this, you're going right ahead to here, to here, and to here. You can't say anything about it. He doesn't want to, because he gets them to support him and he feels he's getting an honor and that eventually he will get higher pay and higher positions, etc."

S - "Janisories (phonetic) of Science."

D - "There was a book written about it recently. I had it here."

S - "I'd also like to see your talk."

D - "Well, you know you can have it. I don't say it's anything extraordinary, it had a great deal of publicity at the time. I generally don't give out anything to the press, but this was a public talk. Now, what have I done? I've taken that book home to read. (Would you get me a copy of my Columbia talk?)

S - "What's the name of the book and I'll get it."

D - (What's the name of that book on Soviet Science that I had here. Book on Soviet Science, do you remember? Find out for me. A book just came out on what the Soviets are doing on the education of Soviet scientists, and maybe general education) (Do you remember that book about education in the Soviet Union? I've asked [REDACTED] to get it. He'll get it for me.) I had it right here and I took it home, I think."

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S - "Maudling (phonetic) was talking much those ways yesterday. Our Minister of Supply, who is here at the moment. His idea is that Britain and America might find it useful to pool their resources of scientists to meet this danger, and go researching on parallel lines, but collaborate and it sounds very good, doesn't it? I think rather to include, not only British and the Americans....."

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D - "Go wider, too, you mean."

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S - "Have some French and German..."

D - "I was driving back yesterday from Camp David with Lewis Strauss and he was telling of the origin of the early work that was done on fission. That's what we got, both of us got from Haan (phonetic) and from.....a great deal of credit for the original idea as opposed to those number of people who were exiles from Germany."

S - "Also praise Lord Charwold (phonetic) whom I remember coming over to Berlin, he was still then Professor Linderman (phonetic) and I used to see quite a bit of him and he was getting these German scientists over to England, he was awfully good. But, I'd certainly like to know, but I suppose we don't really know too much about the position with regard to these Russian scientists, going on, but for instance, now, we know quite a bit, we are getting much better. General Strong made that very clear."

D - "Very fond of General Strong. He's a fine person. Give him my regards."

S - "Would you know young Fleming, too?"

D - "No, I don't think so." Was he....."

S - "But he might be very distant you know, but young Fleming was sort of bottle washer to the DNI during the war, but he writes such amusing spy stories today always."

D - "I am trying to build up my library in that field."

S - "It's quite a good idea, isn't it. The British did it a lot, just before the war. They were collecting all possible spy sotries, getting ideas from them. Now, I was wondering just now what you were saying about the way they'd take their scientists or scientific students and push them into this or that. The Ambassador in Cairo, a former physics professor of Kiev University, Solud (phonetic) the Russian. You know, Trevellyan (phonetic) he suffers quite a bit in Cairo because they think he's an Armenian, heavily armed. This gent, Solud (phonetic), this mysterious figure, he apparently started off as a professor of physics and I should so like to know how does the moment come when they push a man like that into Foreign Service."

D - "Here we are. That's it."

B - "I just wanted to tell you, sir, OSI evaluates that very highly and they just say the information is a little old, not quite..."

D - "Who published this?"

B - "A Harvard research man, sir."

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D - "You don't have an extra copy of this, do you, that I could give?"

B - "Well, I think you might keep that one. We can get another one."

D - "Who is this? Who is this gentleman?"

B - "This is one of our people on the staff."

D - "Well, I don't want to take his book without his..... How can this be gotten?"

B - "I think it's quite open, sir."

S - "An open publisher?"

D - "Doesn't look like it's got any price or publisher. National Science Foundation got it out. Soviet Professional Man Power, came out recently. If you have any trouble, just let me know, and I'll get an extra copy. It is Soviet Instrument Man Power, Nicholas DeWitt of the Russian Research Center of Harvard University and published by the National Science Foundation in Washington, D. C., and it was published, oh, yes, you can get it from the U. S. Government Printing Office. Cost you \$1.25. If you can find another copy, bring it down."

B - "Alright, sir."

D - "I have not read it, and I, therefore, I'm not underwriting everything in it, but it's a scholarly piece of work."

S - "Have you seen this German fellow's book that Adenauer is supposed to be very much struck with. Starlinger, Wilhelm Starlinger, a German doctor who spent sometime in a concentration camp there and reports his talks with other fellows. I think it's a kind of evaluation of Soviet strength based on.....I am not sure what it is. I've only seen it in German."

D - "I can read German, but I don't read as well as I used to. I learned my German in Austria."

S - "Sad, about our friend, [REDACTED]"

D - "I never knew him, you see, until this trip."

S - "I think we ought to have made a gesture when he went across and said right away that he was not under any prosecution from our side and that he would be perfectly okay to go out, so to call the bluff that he is a refugee and..."

D - "What's happened to him? He had gone and taken a drink, hadn't he?"

S - "Oh, he had, certainly. He was drinking very heavily. I was amazed. I mean I could take quite a bit, but that pace he says - it's fantastic." It was approved for release 2003/06/26 : CIA-RDP80R01731R000800200007-9

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D - "Is she in England now, or is she still in Germany?"

S - "She's in England."

D - "Do you think he was lured over, or do you think he went over voluntarily, and then was kept or do you think.....?"

S - "I think he was....."

D - "You were right there as I remember."

S - "I had just arrived in Germany on the very day that the announcement was made."

B - "The owner of the book is ready to give it up, sir, if you just tear his name out of the cover sheet."

D - "You mind if I do that?"

S - "Of course not."

B - "He didn't know who you wanted to give it to."

S - "Thank you very much. I think that it was an inspiration of the moment, an impulse. He was concerned, and I think he was telling us the truth when he said he crossed over, he had no intention of staying, that only came later after the talks. I suppose you must have heard that. That it took the Soviet authorities quite sometime before they were able to persuade him."

D - "What do you think of the German developments?"

S - "Well, I'd say it's going to be better now. I'm delighted to see this committee functioning into Parliament."

D - "In the what?"

S - "The Parliament, yes." They're not taking everything lying down because that's the great danger."

D - "Do you know our friend, Gerstenmeyer (phonetic)?"

S - "Yes, I've met him."

D - "I took him back to Germany after the war. He made his escape to Switzerland, finally."

S - "Yes, he's good, but there's too many people, one sort of..... and never quite trust them and when the Nationalist movement becomes too strong in Germany, they just go the wrong way. I mean when I say Nationalist, that's sort of rather selfish arrogance."

D - "Who do you think is coming along as a possible successor to Adenauer? That's one of the problems. Extraordinary man. He seems to have recovered from this illness."



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S - "It's amazing, isn't it? Of course, I go to the same place for slimming cures. I'm afraid although I had a very good slim, it's all come back again."

D - "Where do you go - Baden (phonetic)?"

S - "Yes, that's the place that he goes to. Very good doctors there. It's remarkable, isn't it? The way he's come back."

D - "What are you writing on these days chiefly?"

S - "Well, I'm going to be writing on America and really it's a question of trying to see a foreign situation through American eyes. That's what I've assigned myself with the task here."

D - "I think you'll have the most trouble in our Far Eastern policies, isn't that the thing?"

S - "The Middle East is going to be, too. European policy is very easy."

D - "Well, you find difference in views really in the Middle East."

S - "No, but what astonishes me still is that I never...you could talk your head off.....like this George Allan and you don't necessarily get the genuine policy, I mean, talking off the record."

D - "What you say is entirely off the record."

S - "Absolutely, goes without saying, but you don't really know afterwards whether you've had the official government line, even then, if when you talk to.., because it appears, I know talking over with British diplomats afterwards, that they have an entirely different impression for instance over the Cyprus policy. Where Allan tells me that they are urging the British to increase the tempo of concession, the British Embassy here claims that is not at all the official top line which is very helpful indeed. I mean, increase the tempo of concession now, I mean, that is merely fast to get out there. You can't do anything else. The tempo of concession....I mean we've made every effort of conceivable concession now."

D - "Your Ambassador here is very much cherished.....a man of great sincerity and presents the view point of his own government. I mean all of us. Maybe you have the same trouble. You sent someone that takes on the color of the country where he is and ambassadors are....Makins is one of us, as very few are, still he presents clearly so you know where you stand."

S - "I've know diplomats who were too anxious to sign treaties, too, a dangerous thing, the golden pen complex."

D - "I've got to go to another meeting in another minute."

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S - "The Express asked me to ask you something. They apparently have got a book on Burgess and McLean that they're bringing out."

D - "They wrote me about that."

S - "And they want you to write a forward. I take it that you don't want to."

D - "I think it's unwise. I think there's a feeling, you know, that we critical, over critical, etc., and I have tried in my relations....."

S - "I, too, believe it's absurd."

D - "I wrote an answer.....Would you tell them that? I have a great regard for your paper."

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